



## Asan Bay Overlook Memorial Wall of Names

Honor, Sacrifice,  
Remembrance

Often monuments and memorials contain the names of the presidents of nations or high ranking military officials and rightfully so. This memorial wall of honor, sacrifice, and remembrance, however, includes the etched names of ordinary men who fought with extraordinary bravery on the front lines and the names of the civilians, the men, women and children, who as neighbors, friends and family suffered the consequences of nations at war, many paying the ultimate sacrifice.

The Asan Bay Overlook Memorial Wall contains the names of 1,880 U.S. servicemen who died in the 1941 defense of Guam against the attacking Japanese armed forces and those who died retaking the island from Japan in 1944 along with the names of the 1,170 people of Guam who died and 14,721 who suffered atrocities of war from 1941-1944.

### History of the wall

In commemoration of Guam’s Golden Salute commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam (July 21, 1994), Phase I a Tribute to the People of Guam created by Public Law 103-197 called for the construction of a memorial wall at the Asan Bay Overlook. The memorial includes a bronze bas-relief triptych memorializing the role of Guam in the Pacific Theater of World War II along with bronze sculptures depicting the invasion, occupation, and liberation of Guam designed by sculptor, Eugene Daub. Over 1,500 returning U.S. Veterans along with their families joined local war survivors at the dedication ceremony.

Phase II Tribute to the People of Guam called for a listing of the people of Guam who suffered the atrocities of the occupation, along with the names of the American Servicemen who were killed in Guam during the war. In collaboration between Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez and Congressman Robert A. Underwood, a two year effort began to compile the list of names through existing records and mass media efforts both on and off island to reach the largest number of Chamorros and other residents who lived on Guam during the war.

On July 22, 1996 a dedication ceremony at the Asan Bay Overlook unveiled the completed memorial wall containing the names of 16,142 islanders and servicemen etched in bronze. The memorial wall honors the U.S. Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen who died during the Battle for Guam from July 21, 1944 to August 10, 1944 (1,700), and the people of Guam who died or suffered (14,000) personal injury, forced labor, forced march, or internment during the occupation of Guam from December 8, 1941 to July 21, 1944.

In 2002, Super Typhoon Pongsona devastated the island. The high winds and tropical environment caused further damage to the bronze panels at the Asan Bay Overlook. The park began rehabilitation of the park units and sought funds to replace the damaged visitor center exhibits and restore the damaged memorial wall.

In 2007, the memorial wall was vandalized and irreparably damaged when 34 brass panels were stolen and sold to a scrap yard weeks before the island was to celebrate Liberation Day. The island community was outraged with this devastation of the memorial. The defendant was charged under the United States District Court of Guam with theft of government property, destruction of a veteran’s memorial and conspiracy to transport stolen good in foreign commerce, along with charges in the Superior Court of Guam with theft by receiving stolen property and crimes against the community. The perpetrator was sentenced to 21 months in both federal and local prison. Later in the year, temporary acrylic panels were installed to replace the stolen bronze panels.

In early 2008, Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Gov. Felix P. Camacho, and the War in the Pacific National Historical Park partnered to initiate a restoration project of the memorial wall. The public was invited to submit applications to make corrections or add missing names through the offices of Congresswoman Bordallo and Governor Camacho. The application period for name additions ran from May 1 to June 30, 2008 (61 days) and involved significant public outreach, press releases from all partners, and public service announcements including commercials that appeared on radio and television both on and off island.

Once the application period ended, a new list of certified names was provided to War in the Pacific National Historical Park by the offices of Congresswoman Bordallo and Governor Camacho. Due to several circumstances, the Memorial Wall project was not completed as originally planned.

In 2012, the park learned that the wall project would proceed and initial project preparations began in 2013 with the goal of completing the project prior to 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam (July 2014).

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**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: Can I add a name to the wall?**

A: No, the application period to add new names ended on June 30, 2008.

**Q: Where can I get a copy of the new list of names?**

A: Due to the high volume of names, hard copies will not be provided. The final list of names can be found at War in the Pacific National Historical Park’s website at:  
[www.nps.gov/wapa/planyourvisit/asan-bay-overlook.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wapa/planyourvisit/asan-bay-overlook.htm)

**Q: How did the NPS get the “People of Guam” names?**

A: The certified list of names for the “People of Guam” was provided to the National Park Service by the office of the Governor of Guam and the office of Guam’s Representatives to Congress. The first certified list of names was provided by the offices of Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez and Congressman Robert Underwood in 1995. Later in 2008, a call for corrections and missing names went out to the public through the offices of Governor Felix Camacho and Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo.

**Q: How did you get the list of names for the American servicemen who died?**

A: All U.S. military servicemen names were compiled by the National Park Service based on archival military records.

**Q: What will happen to the old bronze panels?**

A: The National Park Service is considering several options for an appropriate and meaningful use of the original bronze panels.